

**Ashland Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008
Ashland Elementary School Library
7:00 PM**

Present: Glenn Dion, Rick Alpers, Dan Golden, Jeanette I. Stewart, Beth Bartlett, Leigh Sharps, Don Marsh, Bob Comeau, Jamie Lyford, David Ruell, K.L. Hughes, Linda Guyotte

Chairman Dion called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes for February 4, 2008 & February 11, 2008 – Selectman Stewart motioned to accept the minutes of February 4, 2008 with some typographical and grammatical errors. Selectman Bartlett seconded. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.**

Selectman Stewart moved to table the minutes of February 11, 2008 because they were not included in the Selectmen's packets. Selectman Golden seconded. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.**

Old Business

Recycling Committee – Chairman Dion mentioned that the deadline for signing up for the committee is February 22, 2008. Selectman Stewart asked if anyone in the audience might be interested in signing up. There are only two volunteers so far.

Tax Deeding – Mr. Alpers said that he has completed the paperwork for the Sheriffs. The Sheriffs will visit 99 Winona Road and ask each tenant if they want a hearing, or if they will be moving out. One tenant has already signed a lease and another has started packing and will be moving to Alexandria. The third tenant is still there. There were some plumbing issues there on Friday which were addressed. The driveway is still plowed and sanded and the trash is being picked up. Mr. Alpers mentioned that there is money also owed to the Electric Company, so it will be added to the sale price.

Chairman Dion asked Mr. Alpers to call Berlin to ask what they have done in a situation like this. It looks as though the sale of the property at auction will be in May of this year.

Personnel Policy Revisions – Mr. Alpers said that the last set of revisions that were adopted were the "Personal Standards of Conduct". There was an option that wasn't selected. He said that the Board should read the options and vote on one at the next meeting.

2008 Budget – Mr. Alpers mentioned that he had “crunched” some numbers. He passed out his suggestions for cuts to the budget to the Board. He said that they can talk about them at the meeting on Monday with the Department Heads. Mr. Alpers also mentioned that all the pay raises budgeted for 2008 have been frozen until the union ratifies the contract.

USDA Water Loans Refinancing – Mr. Alpers said that Linda Guyotte had asked what the status was. He emailed Northway Bank and they didn’t like the warrant article from 1996-1997. Mr. Alpers said that we won’t lose the interest rate, we just have to find the right information to go along with it. Ms. Guyotte said that we should just put it out to bid because we are having to furnish too much information. Mr. Alpers will have to find the bond article. He will call the USDA to see if they have any paperwork.

Other Old Business – Selectman Bartlett asked Mr. Alpers if an amended article is supposed to be certified. Mr. Alpers said it doesn’t have to be. She also asked him if he had heard anything about the retirement fund. He replied that the dinner isn’t until March 18th. He will get both sides of the story then, and report back.

Selectman Stewart asked when the audit for the Electric Company will be done. Mr. Alpers will ask Paul Mercier where he is at.

New Business

Opening of TAN bids with Treasurer Linda Guyotte – Ms. Guyotte mentioned that she received five responses. They are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Meredith Village Savings Bank | 2.47% |
| Community Guarantee | 3.75% |
| Citizen’s Bank | 2.26% |
| Woodsville Guarantee | 3.125% |
| Northway Bank | 2.29% |

Selectman Golden motioned to go with Citizen’s Bank. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion. A discussion started about going out of town for this short term loan. If any problems arise, it can be changed. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.**

Dan Boynton, Ashland Ball Park – Dan Boynton said that Jeremy Hiltz is willing to donate all services for excavation for the lights at the ball field. Mr. Boynton went over all the details for the lights. He introduced Mike Berry from Lusco Lighting. Mr. Berry explained what his company does and how much can be saved by using his company. Mr. Alpers asked the board members if they would like to have a public hearing to find out what the Town thinks of the lights. After much discussion it was decided to set up a hearing. Mr. Boynton will call Mr. Alpers for a date after the Town Meeting.

NH License Plate Contract – Mr. Alpers explained that Patsy Tucker and Pat Crowell are currently in training to be able to do the State part of the registration of cars. He explained the process. Selectman Stewart motioned to have Chairman Dion sign and approve the New Hampshire License Plate contract. Seconded by Selectman Golden.

Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.

Sander for plow truck – The sander for the plow truck was considered totaled by the insurance company. The 2007 model is \$11,840. A 2008 model will be much more expensive. Mr. Alpers hasn't heard from the insurance company yet as to how much they will give us. Selectman Golden moved to purchase the sander for the plow truck.

Selectman Stewart seconded. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.** Selectman Bartlett thanked Mark Ober and his crew for all their hard work over the past few months. Mr. Alpers also thanked Mark and mentioned how much time Mark has put in, some of it on his own time. He thanked Mr. Ober for saving a storage building from falling down at the transfer station. Last Saturday morning he saw that the roof was bowing. He called his crew to come in and shovel the roof, which saved the building.

Land Use Change Tax Warrant – Mr. Alpers explained that there is a warrant for two people that have taken their land out of current use. The Board needs to sign both pages. Selectman Stewart motioned to authorize Patsy Tucker to collect the Land Use Change Taxes. Motion seconded by Selectman Bartlett. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.** Some discussion followed.

Selectman Stewart mentioned that “Meet the Candidates” night is Thursday, March 6 at 7PM here in the library at the school. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Town Library.

Town Administrator Report – Mr. Alpers met with the Lakes Region Planning Commission. There is a grant available for over a million dollars to pay for an entire dumping station for the sewer department. He is working with the LRPC to try to secure the grant. Still in the early stages. This could generate a lot of revenue.

Employee Recognition: None at this time

Public Comment and Concerns - None

Non – Public Session – None

Adjournment – Selectman Stewart moves to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Selectman Golden seconds. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, DG – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.**

Approved by the Board of Selectmen:

Glenn R. Dion

Daniel P. Golden

Beth G. Bartlett

Jeanette I. Stewart

Leigh Sharps

Date

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
2/21/08